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## Featured Bookshelf: 2017 Hispanic Heritage Month

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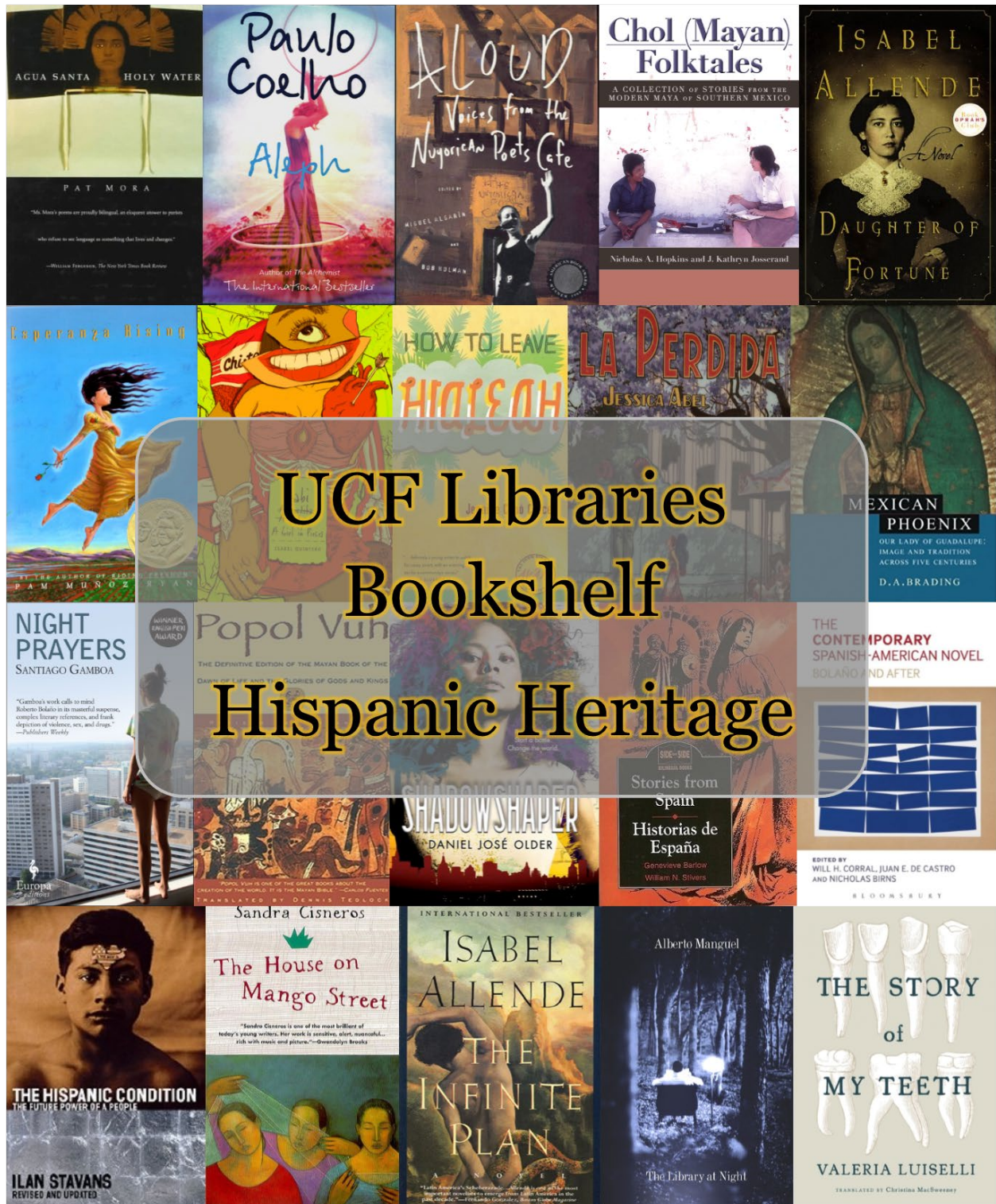
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Hispanic Heritage Month, established in 1988, runs from September 15 through October 15. It recognizes and celebrates the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans have made to the United States. Florida in particular has a strong Hispanic background including the oldest inhabited city in the U.S., St. Augustine, which was founded in 1565 by the Spanish.

Join the UCF Libraries as we celebrate our favorite Hispanic authors and subjects with these 20 suggestions. Keep reading below to see the full list of books along with their descriptions and catalog links.

PS. The [free museum day hosted by the Smithsonian](#) is on Saturday, September 23 this year, and includes admission to the Tampa Bay History Center which is currently featuring [Gateways to the Caribbean: Mapping the Florida-Cuba Connection](#). Get a [free ticket to visit here](#).

For a full list of participating Florida Museums, [click here](#).

**[Agua Santa = Holy Water](#) by Pat Mora**

Drawing on oral and lyrical traditions, this book honors the grace and spirit of mothers, daughters, lovers, and goddesses. From a tribute to Frida Kahlo to advice from an Aztec goddess, the poems explore the intimate and sacred spaces of borderlands through many voices: a revolutionary, a domestic worker, a widow.

*Suggested by Andrew Hackler, Circulation*

**[Aleph](#) by Jorge Luis Borges**

"The Aleph" is a short story by the Argentine writer and poet Jorge Luis Borges. First published in September 1945, it was reprinted in the short story collection, *The Aleph and Other Stories*, in 1949, and revised by the author in 1974.

*Suggested by Christina Wray, Digital Learning & Engagement Librarian*

**[Aloud: voices from the Nuyorican Poets Café](#) edited by Miguel Algarín and Bob Holman**

Compiled by poets who have been at the center of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe in New York City, *Aloud!* showcases the work of the most innovative and accomplished word artists from around America.

*Suggested by Christina Wray, Digital Learning & Engagement Librarian*

**[Chol \(Mayan\) folktales: a collection of stories from the modern Maya of Southern Mexico](#) by Nicholas**

**A. Hopkins and J. Kathryn Josserand**

*Chol (Mayan) Folktales* deftly combines high-quality and thoughtfully edited transcriptions of oral storytelling with translation and narrative analysis, documenting and analyzing a trove of Chol folklore. The work provides a look into the folktale culture of the contemporary Maya presented with a rare and innovative theoretical framework. The rich Chol oral narrative tradition is represented by eleven stories, each printed in the original language of the storytellers with parallel English translations and accompanied by a brief introduction that provides the relevant cultural and mythological background. Included with eight of the stories is a link to an audio clip of the tale told aloud in the Chol language. In addition, *Chol (Mayan) Folktales* introduces a model for the analysis of narratives that can be used to demonstrate the existence of a tradition of storytelling applicable to other Maya lore, including Classic period hieroglyphic texts.

*Suggested by Adriana Neese, Circulation*

**[Daughter of Fortune](#) by Isabel Allende**

Daughter of Fortune is a sweeping portrait of an era, a story rich in character, history, violence, and compassion. In Eliza, Allende has created one of her most appealing heroines, an adventurous, independent-minded, and highly unconventional young woman who has the courage to reinvent herself and to create her hard-won destiny in a new country.

*Suggested by Andrew Hackler, Circulation*

**[Esperanza Rising](#) by Pam Muoz Ryan**

Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico--she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances--Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.

*Suggested by Peggy Nuhn, Regional Campuses*

**[Gabi, a Girl in Pieces](#) by Isabel Quintero**

Gabi Hernandez chronicles her last year in high school in her diary: college applications, Cindy's pregnancy, Sebastian's coming out, the cute boys, her father's meth habit, and the food she craves. And best of all, the poetry that helps forge her identity.

*Suggested by Sandy Avila, Subject Librarian*

**[How to Leave Hialeah](#) by Jennine Capó Crucet**

Coming to us from the predominantly Hispanic working-class neighborhoods of Hialeah, the voices of this steamy section of Miami shout out to us from rowdy all-night funerals and kitchens full of plátanos and croquetas and lechón ribs, from domino tables and cigar factories, glitter-purple Buicks and handed-down Mom Rides, private homes of santeras and fights on front lawns. Calling to us from crowded expressways and canals underneath abandoned overpasses shading a city's secrets, these voices are the heart of Miami, and in this award-winning collection Jennine Capó Crucet makes them sing.

*Suggested by Sandy Avila, Subject Librarian*

**[La Perdida](#) by Jessica Abel**

Jessica Abel's evocative black-and-white drawings and creative mix of English and Spanish bring Mexico City's past and present to life, unfurling Carla's dark history against the legacies of Burroughs and Kahlo. A story about the youthful desire to live an authentic life and the consequences of trusting easy answers, La Perdida—at once grounded in the particulars of life in Mexico and resonantly universal—is a



story about finding oneself by getting lost.

*Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections*

**Mexican Phoenix: Our Lady of Guadalupe: image and tradition across five centuries by D.A. Brading**

In 1999 Pope John Paul II proclaimed Our Lady of Guadalupe a patron saint of the Americas. According to oral tradition and historical documents, in 1531 Mary appeared as a beautiful Aztec princess to Juan Diego, a poor Indian. Speaking to him in his own language, she asked him to tell the bishop her name was La Virgen de Guadalupe and that she wanted a church built on the mountain. During a second visit, the image of the Virgin miraculously appeared on his cape. Through the centuries, the enigmatic power of this image has aroused such fervent devotion in Mexico that it has served as the banner of the rebellion against Spanish rule and, despite skepticism and anticlericalism, still remains a potent symbol of the modern nation. In Mexican Phoenix, David Brading traces the intellectual origins, the sudden efflorescence, and the theology that has sustained the tradition of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

*Suggested by Adriana Neese, Circulation*

**Night Prayers by Santiago Gamboa**

A thrilling literary novel about crime and corruption in Latin America told in alternating voices and perspectives, Night Prayers is the story of Manuel, a Colombian philosophy student arrested in Bangkok and accused of drug trafficking. Unless he enters a guilty plea he will almost certainly be sentenced to death. But it is not his own death that weighs most heavily on him but a tender longing for his sister, Juana, whom he hasn't seen for years. Before he dies he wants nothing more than to be reunited with her. Fans of both Roberto Bolaño and Gabriel García Márquez will find much to admire in this story about the mean streets of Bogotá, the sordid bordellos of Thailand, and a love between siblings that knows no end.

*Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections*

**Popol Vuh: The Definitive Edition of the Mayan Book of the Dawn of Life and the Glories of Gods and Kings translated by Dennis Tedlock**

Popol Vuh, the Quiché Mayan book of creation, is not only the most important text in the native languages of the Americas, it is also an extraordinary document of the human imagination. It begins with the deeds of Mayan gods in the darkness of a primeval sea and ends with the radiant splendor of the Mayan lords who founded the Quiché kingdom in the Guatemalan highlands. Originally written in Mayan hieroglyphs, it was transcribed into the Roman alphabet in the sixteenth century. This new edition of Dennis Tedlock's unabridged, widely praised translation includes new notes and commentary, newly translated passages, newly deciphered hieroglyphs, and over forty new illustrations.

*Suggested by Tim Walker, LibTech*

**Shadowshaper by Daniel José Older**

Sierra Santiago planned an easy summer of making art and hanging out with her friends. But then a corpse crashes their first party. Her stroke-ridden grandfather starts apologizing over and over. And

when the murals in her neighborhood begin to weep tears... Well, something more sinister than the usual Brooklyn ruckus is going on. With the help of a fellow artist named Robbie, Sierra discovers shadowshaping, a magic that infuses ancestral spirits into paintings, music, and stories. But someone is killing the shadowshapers one by one. Now Sierra must unravel her family's past, take down the killer in the present, and save the future of shadowshaping for generations to come.

*Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections*

**Stories from Spain = Historias de Espana by Genevieve Barlow and William N. Stivers**

In Stories from Spain/Historias de Espana, we've placed the Spanish and English stories side by side--lado a lado--so you can practice and improve your reading skills in your new language while enjoying the support of your native tongue. This way, you'll avoid the inconvenience of constantly having to look up unfamiliar words and expressions in a dictionary. Read as much as you can understand, and then look to the facing page for help if necessary. As you read, you can check your comprehension by comparing the two versions of the story. You'll also find a bilingual vocabulary list at the end of the book, so you'll have a handy reference for new words.

*Suggested by Adriana Neese, Circulation*

**The contemporary Spanish-American novel: Bolaño and after edited by Will H. Corral, Juan E. De Castro, Nicholas Birns**

The Contemporary Spanish-American Novel provides an accessible introduction to an important World literature. While many of the authors covered—Aira, Bolaño, Castellanos Moya, Vázquez—are gaining an increasing readership in English and are frequently taught, there is sparse criticism in English beyond book reviews. This book provides the guidance necessary for a more sophisticated and contextualized understanding of these authors and their works. Underestimated or unfamiliar Spanish American novels and novelists are introduced through conceptually rigorous essays.

*Suggested by Adriana Neese, Circulation*

**The Hispanic Condition: The Power of a People by Ilan Stavans**

In The Hispanic Condition, Ilan Stavans offers a subtle and insightful meditation on Hispanic society in the United States. A native of Mexico, Stavans has emerged as one of the most distinguished Latin American writers of our time, an award-winning novelist and critic praised by scholars and beloved by readers. In this pioneering psycho-historical profile, he delves into the cultural differences and similarities among the five major Hispanic groups: Cubans, Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, Central and South Americans, and Spaniards.

*Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services*

**The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros**

Acclaimed by critics, beloved by readers of all ages, taught everywhere from inner-city grade schools to universities across the country, and translated all over the world, The House on Mango Street is the remarkable story of Esperanza Cordero. Told in a series of vignettes – sometimes heartbreaking,

sometimes deeply joyous – it is the story of a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. Few other books in our time have touched so many readers.  
*Suggested by Peggy Nuhn, Regional Campuses*

**The Infinite Plan by Isabel Allende**

A saga of one man's search for love and his struggle to come to terms with a childhood of poverty and neglect, *The Infinite Plan* is Isabel Allende's first novel to be set in the United States and to portray American characters.

*Suggested by Andrew Hackler, Circulation*

**The Library at Night by Alberto Manguel**

Inspired by the process of creating a library for his fifteenth-century home near the Loire, in France, Alberto Manguel, the acclaimed writer on books and reading, has taken up the subject of libraries. "Libraries," he says, "have always seemed to me pleasantly mad places, and for as long as I can remember I've been seduced by their labyrinthine logic." In this personal, deliberately unsystematic, and wide-ranging book, he offers a captivating meditation on the meaning of libraries.

*Suggested by Christina Wray, Digital Learning & Engagement Librarian*

**The Story of my Teeth by Valeria Luiselli**

Highway is a late-in-life world traveler, yarn spinner, collector, and legendary auctioneer. His most precious possessions are the teeth of the "notorious infamous" like Plato, Petrarch, and Virginia Woolf. Written in collaboration with the workers at a Jumex juice factory, *Teeth* is an elegant, witty, exhilarating romp through the industrial suburbs of Mexico City and Luiselli's own literary influences.

*Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections*